IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Haruko KAWAKAMI

Title:

IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD

Appl. No.:

Unassigned

Filing Date:

03/17/2004

Examiner:

Unassigned

Art Unit:

Unassigned

<u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</u> <u>UNDER 37 CFR §1.56</u>

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document, except as noted below, is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The USPTO has waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) to submit copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications when citing and submitting an Information Disclosure Statements in a patent application filed after June 30, 2003 and in an international application that has entered the national stage under 37 USC §371 after June 30, 2003. Accordingly, copies of these types of documents are not being supplied in connection with this application. Reference is being made to Pre-OG Notice from Office of Patent Legal Administration dated July 25, 2003, Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Document A3 discloses an image processor, an image processing method and a storage medium. It is also discussed in the present specification.

Document A4 discloses technology which embeds a multiplex pit at the 2-dimensional pattern itself. According to this technology, since processing is uniformly performed to all manuscripts, there is a danger of distinguishing as a watermark which added accidentally things which exist in a manuscript from the first, such as a pattern, a frequency ingredient, etc., which are contained in the manuscript picture itself.

English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are provided herewith.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date March 17, 2004

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

Customer Number: 22428

Telephone:

(202) 945-6162

Facsimile:

(202) 672-5399

Pavan K. Agarwal Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 40,888

MODIFIED PTO/SB/08 (08-00)

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number.	Sul	ostitute for form 1	1449B/	РТО		Complete if Known		
	INFO	DRMATION DIS	SCLO	SURE	Application Number	Unassigned		
	STA	TEMENT BY A	PPLI	CANT	Filing Date	03/17/2004		
	Date	Submitted: Ma	rob 17	7 2004	First Named Inventor	Haruko KAWAKAMI		
	Date	Submitted. Ma	1011 17	, 2004	Group Art Unit	Unassigned		
	(use as	s many sheets	as ne	cessary)_	Examiner Name	Unassigned		
Sheet	1		of	1	Attorney Docket Number	016907-1623		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	U.S. Patent Document			Date of Publication of	Pages, Columns, Lines,	
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
	A1	5,636,292		RHOADS	06-03-1997		
	A2	5,652,626		KAWAKAMI ET AL.	07-29-1997		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Éxaminer Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document				Date of Publication of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where	
		Offic	ce ³ Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
	A3	JP	2001-313814	A	CANON INC.	11-09-2001		Abstract
	A4	JP	2001-297070	Α	SHARP CORP.	10-26-2001		Abstract
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.				

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	

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^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.
Skind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible.
Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.